

Maine Township Special Board Meeting November 7, 2024

Maine Township Board meeting has been videotaped.

For more detailed reports and discussions please refer to the recorded meeting at:

https://mainetown.com/government/agendas_minutes.php

Board Members Present and other Elected Officials: Supervisor Dimond, Trustees: Jones, Horvath, Maher, Malik, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Moylan Krey and Highway Commissioner Beauvais.

Others in Attendance: Attorney Kurt Asprooth, Richard Lyon, and Eva Magnowski.

Supervisor Dimond called the meeting to order at 8:34 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

Agenda Item: Public Participation

None.

Agenda Item: Discussion & Possible Vote on Elected Officials Compensation for next 4-year term

See video at

Supervisor Dimond stated that in front of the Board was a listing of the Fund Balances as of October 31st and September 30th.

Trustee Jones discussed the method that she used to increase the salary of Supervisor, Clerk, Highway Commissioner, Assessor, and Trustees for the next 4-year term. Trustee Jones stated that she averaged the salary base from seven townships that were more closely aligned to our township in terms of geography and population. She pointed out that the previous Board reduced the salaries two times. See video at 1:49

Trustee Horvath stated that she did a similar calculation. She looked at the Townships of Wheeling, Niles, Elk Grove, Northfield, and Leyden with a similar population as our Township and the at salary of each Elected Official. Trustee Horvath discussed the method that she used and basically calculated the cost of service per resident. She said that the salary of Highway Commissioner was a little bit different due to the population of the unincorporated area and had to be calculated a little bit differently.

See video at 9:25

Trustee Maher thanked Trustee Jones and Trustee Horvath for their surveys. Trustee Maher stated that he did his survey and took approximately seven townships closest to the population of our Township and compared the salary numbers. He stated that in his opinion every single official is underpaid.

See video at 15:25

Trustee Malik thanked Trustee Jones, Trustee Horvath and Trustee Maher for the salary study. He discussed the reasons why the Elected Officials salaries should be raised. Trustee Malik said that the Board is proposing “a necessary adjustment of Elected Officials’ salary to bring Maine Township in with the fair compensation standard observed across Cook County”. He pointed out that “the Maine Township’s unique challenge including the highest population density among townships in Cook County demands leadership that can dedicate their focus to serving our community effectively”.

Trustee Malik listed all the things that the present Board has done in the past four years for the residents of the Township.

See video at 19:00

Clerk Gialamas commented that the previous Board lowered the Elected Officials’ salaries ridiculously low.

Assessor Krey appreciated that the Board came up with the salary figures, but they just only refer to the last 4 years. She pointed out that in the last 8 years, the Assessor’s salary has decreased by 78%.

Assessor Krey stated that in her opinion the Assessor's office is the busiest office in the Township and brings back a lot of money to the residents. She said that the Assessor position requires certifications and continuing education.

Trustee Malik pointed out that the Board is discussing the salary increase of the new Elected Officials coming to the office for the next four years not for the current Board members.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais thanked Assessor Krey for all the hard work that she does for the residents of Maine Township. In his opinion, she is drastically underpaid. Highway Commissioner Beauvais thanked the Board for putting in the time and work to get these salaries in alignment. He pointed out that the previous Board wanted to eliminate the Social Services that Maine Township provided for the residents and the current Board brought it back and expanded.

Discussion

Trustee Jones stated that Assessor Krey and her office do a great job, but unfortunately the Board has a certain reality of the budget.

Supervisor Dimond thanked the Trustees for the salary research. She stated that all the salary increases should be fairly modest. Supervisor Dimond proposed to increase the salary by the cost of living during the past four years.

See video at 43:00

Supervisor Dimond asked the Board for a short break at 9:24 p.m.

Back in Session at 9:34 p.m.

Supervisor Dimond distributed the printouts of the CPI Calculator from the US Bureau of Statistics indicating the change in the Board members' salaries from September 2020 to September 2024.

After a lengthy discussion on proposed salaries, health insurance premium, and additional comments and suggestions from Attorney Asprooth, Supervisor Dimond asked the Board to vote.

Trustee Jones	Motion to accept salary increases for the compensation for the next Board beginning in May 2025 as follows: Supervisor \$36,341.75 with a 4% cost of living increase compounded annually through May 2029 and in addition to that \$1,000.00 Ex-Officio Treasurer of the Road and Bridge Fund as Road District Treasurer; Highway Commissioner \$60,569.58 with a 4% cost of living increase compounded annually through May 2029; Clerk \$25,439.22 with a 4% cost of living increase compounded annually through May 2029; Trustees \$7,972.00 with a 4% cost of living increase compounded annually through May 2029; Assessor \$32,000.00 with a 4% cost of living increase compounded annually through May 2029.
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Trustee Horvath	Second.
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Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes

Motion carried.

Attorney Asprooth read aloud that:

- each Elected Official shall be entitled to participate in the Township accident and life insurance programs on the same basis as full-time employees and should be entitled to participate in health insurance program at the rate of 25% of his or her total insurance premium per month;
- each Elected Official shall be entitled to participate in the Township dental program on the same basis as full-time employees;
- each Elected Official shall be able to participate, at their own expense and in the same manner as the Maine Township staff if any optional employee benefits available to Maine Township staff, including, but not limited to: deferred compensation, flexible spending, credit union membership and/or optional insurance.

Supervisor Dimond Motion to keep all other forms of compensation the same as they have been in the past with the exception of the amount that an Elected Official would pay for the health insurance and that amount would be reduced from 35% of the premium to 25%.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Maher Motion to adjourn.

Trustee Malik Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk